

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 22, 2004

The Honorable Colin Powell  
Secretary, U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Powell:


We are writing to express our great concern with the decision that the State Department will now refer to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) as "the Republic of Macedonia." This sudden, unilateral departure from the long-standing US, UN, EU and NATO policy is counterproductive. Such actions interfere with the very successful efforts of our long-time ally, Greece, to bring economic prosperity to FYROM and bring peace and stability to the Balkans. Greece is the number one investor in FYROM and these two countries have been strengthening bilateral relations on many fronts.

This is more than an issue of a name for the Greek people. As you may recall, over 50,000 Greek-Americans attended a May 31, 1992, memorial service in Washington, D.C. for the 42,000 Greek citizens who lost their lives when this part of the former Yugoslavia first tried to create a "Macedonia" nation. When those lives were lost, our Secretary of State, Edward Stettinius, Jr., called "talk of a Macedonian nation...unjustified demagoguery representing no ethnic nor political reality" and "a cloak for aggressive intentions against Greece."


The momentum of this incendiary movement had, in recent years, been dampened down by U.S. intervention and by U.N.-sponsored efforts to resolve differences over FYROM's name. In fact, recently the Greek and FYROM foreign ministers jointly announced their intention to accelerate these U.N. efforts. This unilateral U.S. action mitigates away from peaceful, constructive efforts to negotiate this issue. As well, it contradicts the historical facts about Macedonia and unnecessarily injures the culture of our faithful ally, Greece.

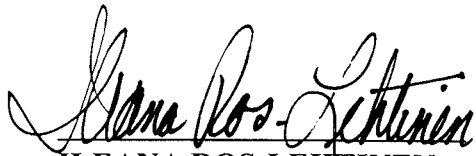
We respectfully request that the State Department return to the long-standing policy of referring to FYROM as such. In addition, we strongly urge you to work hard to assure that no other UN countries break with this UN policy and to strongly support, as Archbishop Demetrios has requested, UN-sponsored efforts to reach a solution on the name that is acceptable to both the people of Greece and FYROM.

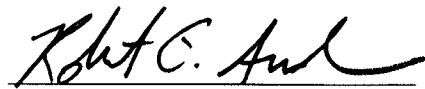
Thank you for your attention in this matter.

  
**MICHAEL BILIRAKIS**  
Member of Congress

Sincerely,

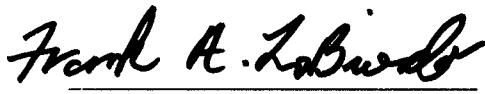
  
**CAROLYN B. MALONEY**  
Member of Congress

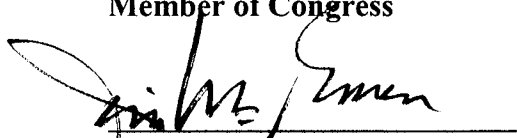
  
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ROBERT ANDREWS  
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PATRICK KENNEDY  
Member of Congress

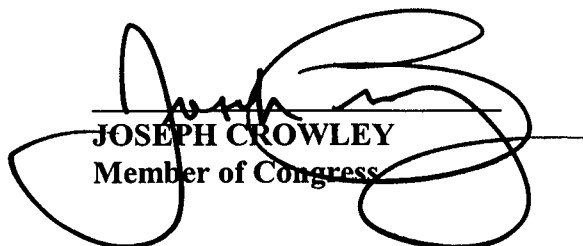
  
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FRANK LOBIONDO  
Member of Congress

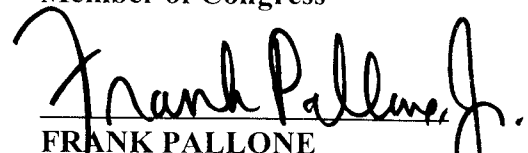
  
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Member of Congress

  
PHILIP ENGLISH  
Member of Congress

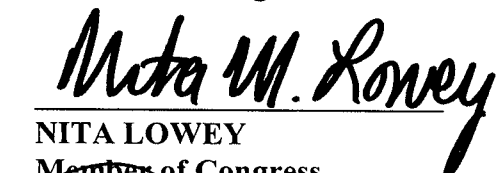
  
HILDA SOLIS  
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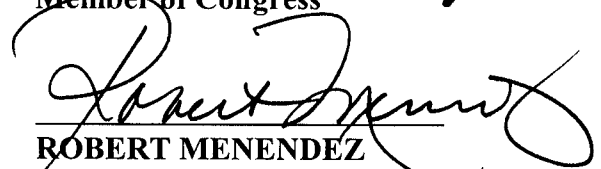
  
JOSEPH CROWLEY  
Member of Congress

  
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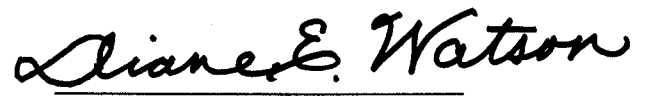
  
FRANK PALLONE  
Member of Congress

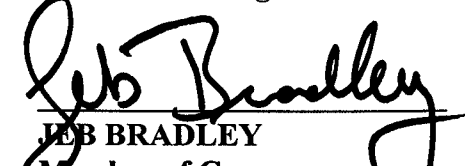
  
RODNEY FRELINGHUYSEN  
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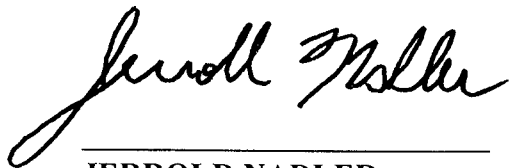
  
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BARBARA LEE  
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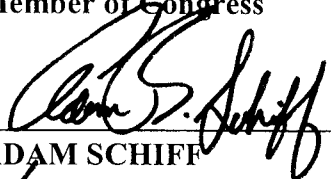
  
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JEB BRADLEY  
Member of Congress

  
GREGORY MEEKS  
Member of Congress



JERROLD NADLER  
Member of Congress



ADAM SCHIFF  
Member of Congress



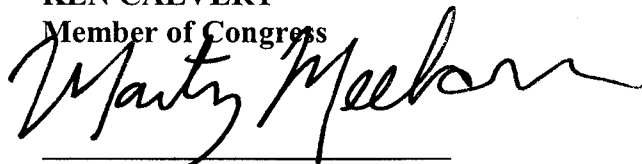
LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART  
Member of Congress



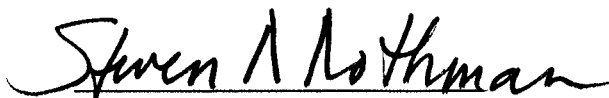
STEVE ISRAEL  
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KEN CALVERT  
Member of Congress



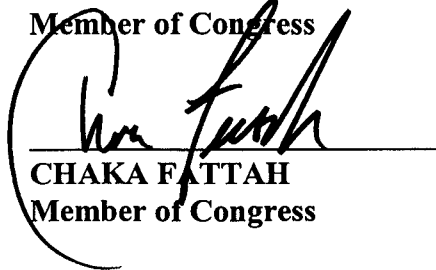
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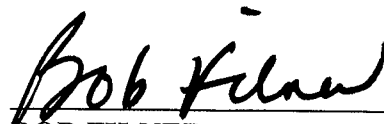
STEVEN ROTHMAN  
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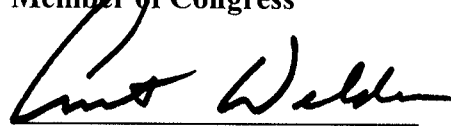
BOB FILNER  
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CHRISTOPHER SHAYS  
Member of Congress



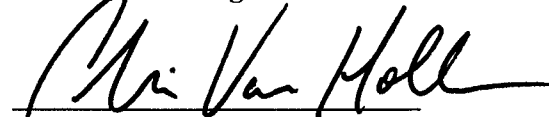
CURT WELDON  
Member of Congress



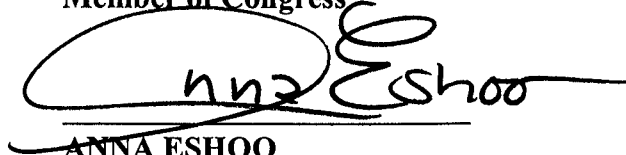
CAROLYN McCARTHY  
Member of Congress



RUSH HOLT  
Member of Congress



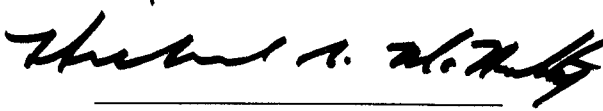
CHRIS VAN HOLLEN  
Member of Congress



ANNA ESHOO  
Member of Congress



BENJAMIN CARDIN  
Member of Congress



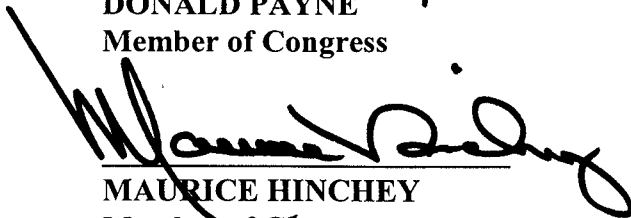
**MICHAEL McNULTY**  
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**GENE GREEN**  
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**DONALD PAYNE**  
Member of Congress



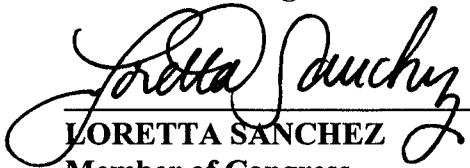
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**EDOLPHUS TOWNS**  
Member of Congress



**EDWARD MARKEY**  
Member of Congress



**LORETTA SANCHEZ**  
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**BARNEY FRANK**  
Member of Congress



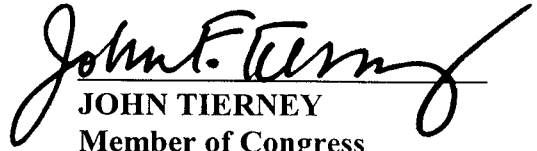
**LINDA SANCHEZ**  
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**JOHN TANNER**  
Member of Congress



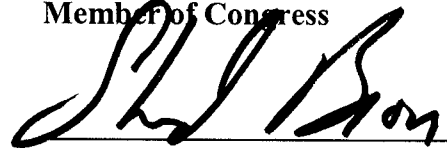
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**LOIS CAPPS**  
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**MIKE McINTYRE**  
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**BRAD SHERMAN**  
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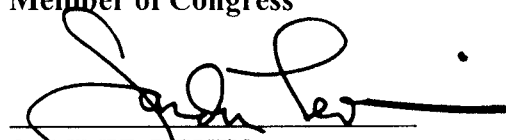
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**BOBBY RUSH**  
Member of Congress

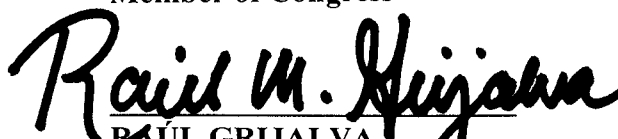
  
DONALD MANZULLO  
Member of Congress

  
ELIOT ENGEL  
Member of Congress

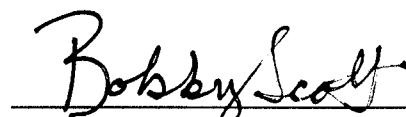
  
SANDER LEVIN  
Member of Congress

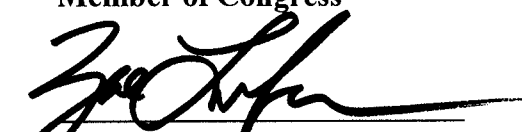
  
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PAUL GRIJALVA  
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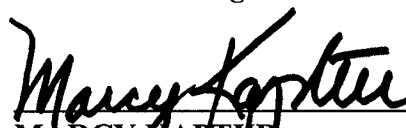
  
Wm. LACY CLAY  
Member of Congress

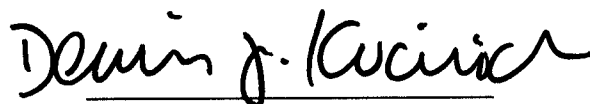
  
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Member of Congress

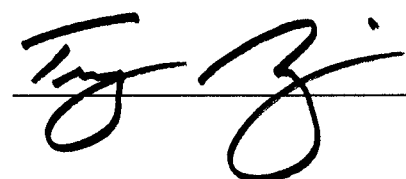
  
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JESSE JACKSON, Jr.  
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